

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-8 and 14 are pending in the present application, with claim 1 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For at least the reasons detailed below, all pending claims should be considered allowable.

***Claim Rejections***

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter II et al. (US 4,367,604). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Therefore, independent claim 1 should now be considered allowed.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

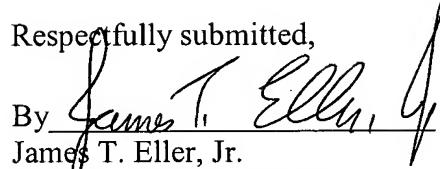
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin R. Geissler (Reg. No. 51,011) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Rd  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant